

Poor Quality of Postal and Telecom Service In M.P.

6249. SHRI VISHVESHVAR BHAGAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the inferior quality essential services available in the field of Post, Telegraph and Communications in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether there is need to improve the quality of these services; and

(c) if so, the instructions issued regarding improvement in Post, Telegraph and Communications Services in Madhya Pradesh Circles?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The quality of essential services available in the field of Post, Telegraph and Communications in Madhya Pradesh generally satisfactory and not inferior.

(b) There is always scope for improvement and constant efforts are made to improve the services.

(c) Necessary instructions in this regard are issued from time to time. Corrective measures are taken wherever deficiency is noticed. In this regard 44 Post Offices in M.P. have been modernised. Instructions have been issued to the supervisory and inspecting officers to pay surprise visits to check the quality of services given to the consumers.

Switch Over of Furnishing Regions

6250. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDER MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the situation emerging on account of ban on felling of trees and closure of Plywood Industries pursuant to directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India; and

(b) if so, the details and the steps taken by the Railways to switch over its furnishing regions made of Plywood to alternatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Research, Design and Standards Organisation, Lucknow have been advised to find alternatives to the wood not only for existing designs of rolling stock but also for new designs of rolling stock.

Utilisation of Asansol Electric Loco-Shed

6251. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government are not utilising the existing capacity and infrastructure of Asansol electric Locoshed of Eastern Railway instead of spending

huge amount to build the same elsewhere;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the homing capacity of this shed;

(d) the number of electric locos at present in that shed;

(e) the names and capacity of those locos; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government of increase its capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. The capacity of Electric Locoshed Asansol is being utilised fully.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) As on 1.5.97, the homing capacity of Electric Locoshed Asansol is 100 locomotives and the present holding is 147 locomotives. The types of locos and their capacity is as below:

Typed Loco	No.	Capacity in Horse Powers
WAM1	33	2870
WAM2	27	2790
WAM3	2	2790
WAG3	9	3150
WAG4	76	3150
	147	

(f) There are plans to augment the capacity of the shed.

Opening of Five Star Hotels in Bihar

6252. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open Five Star Hotels in Kodarma and Hazaribagh districts of Bihar;

(b) if so, the time by which the Five Star Hotels are likely to be opened; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The construction of hotels is primarily a private sector activity depending on a number of factors like availability of suitable sites at reasonable prices, tourism potential of the Centre, availability of infrastructural facilities, availability of resources etc. Government is only a facilitator